

## SOME NEW AFRICAN SPHINGIDAE.

BY DR. KARL JORDAN.

(With two text-figs.)

THE specimens described in this paper are all in the collection of A. J. T. Janse, of Pretoria, who kindly sent them to us for study and description.

1. *Polyptychus molitor lautus* subsp. nov.

♀. Magnus, colore cremoris lutescentis, thorace linea mediana et ala antica quatuor lineis transversis olivaceo-fulvis, alis tenuissime ochraceo marginatis, linea tertia alae anticae lata.

Al. ant. long. 59 mm., lat. 26 mm.

*Hab.* Barberton, Transvaal (L. de Beer); 1 ♀.

A very large form. Entirely cream-colour slightly washed with buff, much paler than *P. m. molitor*, which is more or less pinkish buff. Upperside of tibiae and tarsi ochraceous, foretibia and first foretarsal segment with a chocolate stripe on outer side. Middle line of thorax and four lines on forewing olivaceous tawny, the lines placed as in *P. m. molitor* R. & J. (1912) from the north-west of tropical Africa, but the inner line of the discal pair much broader and shading off outwardly; hindmargin edged with orange-buff except base; from apex to vein  $M^2$  a large marginal drab area, half-moon-shaped, sharply defined at apex of wing, elsewhere diffuse, nearly reaching outer line, the veins in this patch remaining pale except towards distal margin.—*Hindwing* rather paler than forewing, especially at base, with vestiges of two darker lines, of which the inner one touches the cell.

On *underside*: the ground-colour nearly as above, palest towards base; forewing with a slight diffuse yellowish tint around lower cell-angle; both wings crossed in outer half by two nearly parallel brown lines, of which the inner one is slightly the broader and, on the hindwing, is about 1 mm. distant from the lower cell-angle; as in *P. m. molitor* the forewing beneath has no dark marginal area; the inner line on both wings costally less curved than in the N.W. African race.

2. *Libyoclanis metria* spec. nov. (text-fig. 7).

♂. *L. vicinae* affinis; alis anticis sine linea apicali obliqua, apice non productis; posticis rufis margine abdominali pallide luteo; segmento anali ventrali bilobato.

Al. ant. long. 36 mm., lat. 12.5 mm.

*Hab.* Emangeni, Rhodesia, 18. i. 1918 (A. J. T. Janse); 1 ♂.

The upperside of the head, thorax, and base of abdomen cinnamon with a tint of isabella colour, rest of abdomen creamy buff, breast pale clay colour. Upperside of femora and underside of tibiae creamy buff washed with pink; tibiae and tarsi olive-gray, the tibiae pinkish towards apex.

Wings, *upperside*.—Forewing pale clay-colour; apex pointed but not

produced, the distal margin not incurved below apex, more evenly convex than in *L. vicina* R. & J. (1915); the basal tuft of hindmargin more or less pink proximally and cinnamon distally; between base of wing and vein  $M^2$  a few blackish scattered scales which indicate a transverse line proximally to base of  $M^2$ ; about halfway between cell and distal margin a transverse line faintly curved in S-shape, commencing at costal margin 9 mm. from apex and crossing  $M^2$  4 mm. from distal margin, the four posterior internervular sections of the line more or less luniform; on the proximal side of this line faint indications of another line parallel to the former; a fuscous patch extends from hind angle to beyond  $R^2$ , bounded by the discal line, occupying the whole space between line

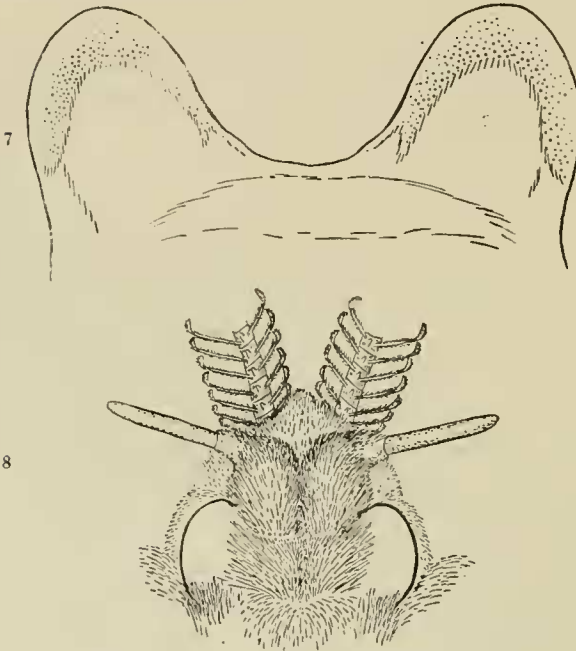


FIG. 7.—*Libyoclanis metria*, ♂; anal sternite.

FIG. 8.—*Xenosphingia jansei*, ♂; head from below.

and fringe from hindmargin to  $M^1$ , then narrowing; 5 mm. from apex between  $SC^4$  and  $SC^5$  an ill-defined fuscous spot composed of black dispersed scales; cilia ochraceous-buff.—Hindwing carmine-pink, costal margin paler, extreme base and the abdominal edge whitish cream, abdominal marginal border cream-buff, widening considerably at anal angle, and extending along distal margin but soon fading away, distal margin dusted with black scales; wing shaped as in *L. vicina*, but distal margin a little less incurved.

*Underside* of the colour of the abdomen.—Forewing with

the cell (except base) and the area behind cell carmine-pink, this colour extending to hindangle and distally fading away; the outer discal line anteriorly quite distinct, posteriorly barely indicated, not reaching hindmargin, proximally to a faint blackish bar behind point of bifurcation  $SC^{4+5}$ ; marginal area rather worn, without trace of the straight line which in the allied species runs from the apex obliquely to the disc.—Hindwing with a few black scales in the outer half, these scales more numerous at and near the costal margin, forming a minute, ill-defined costal spot 5 mm. from apex.

Antenna as in *L. vicina*, but slightly thicker. Anal tergite also as in that species, except that the two lobes are slightly shorter. Anal sternite different, being divided into two rounded lobes (text-fig. 7). Penis-funnel without dorsal lip, ventral lip carinate below. Above the funnel on each side a rounded lobe about as large as the lobes of the anal sternite, with scalloped edges, each tooth

denticulate and bearing a hair on the ventral side ; the corresponding lobes of *L. vicina* small, with the teeth vestigial. Harpe as in *L. vicina*, but slightly broader at the apex.

***Xenosphingia* gen. nov.**

Generi *Ceridia* R. & J. (1903) dieto affinis ; antennis fortissime pectinatis, palporum articulo tertio longissimo tenui subcylindrico ad latus versus proiecto ; rostro nullo ; tibiis anticis et mediis spinosis, antica brevi, sine calcaro, postica duobus calcaris apicalibus armata.

Genotypus : *X. jansei* spec. nov.

A very strange genus, which shares with *Ceridia* the long-pectinated antenna, reduced foretibia, aborted proboscis, etc., but differs remarkably in the absence of the foretibial spur and in the length of the third segment of the labial palpus.

Antenna (♂) reaching beyond apex of cell of forewing, bipectinate from base to tip, the branches of the central segments 1.5 mm. long, all sealed to the apex, shaft setiform in dorsal aspect, ventrally each segment dilated into a slightly claviform process which projects downward and is longer than a segment, with the exception of the processes of the proximal segments, of which the processes are short.

Palpus : first segment short, rough with long hair-scales ; second long, flattened laterally, and here as well as at apex smooth-scaled, apex curved sideways ; third as long as second, smooth, slender, rod-like, nearly cylindrical, directed laterad ; joint between first and second open ventrally (text-fig. 8).

Abdomen without spines.

Foretibia about one-third shorter than first tarsal segment, broad, without epiphysis, spinose on upperside, four apical spines long, the two central ones of them the longest. Midtibia spinose, a little longer than the first tarsal segment. Hindtibia without spines, half as long again as the first hindtarsal segment, with one pair of spurs, longer spur twice as long as the tibia is broad before apex. All the tibiae and tarsi smooth. Pulvillus and paronychium present, the latter with one fringed lobe on each side.

Wings entire ; frenulum and retinaculum present. Forewing : SC<sup>2</sup> nearer to SC<sup>1</sup> than to apex of cell ; stalk of subcostal fork short. Hindwing : SC<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>1</sup> together from upper angle of cell, D<sup>1</sup> distinctly curved, not quite twice the length of D<sup>2</sup> = D<sup>4</sup>, lower cell-angle about 90°, not produced.

**3. *Xenosphingia jansei* spec. nov. (text-fig. 8).**

♂. Viridis, antennis albis ramis anticis purpureo-squamosis, pedibus ex parte purpureis, alis anticis margine costali albato, posticis pallidioribus.

Al. ant. long. 18 mm., lat. 9 mm.

*Hab.* Sawmills, Rhodesia, 2. ii. 1918 (A. J. T. Janse) ; 1 ♂.

Upperside of body and forewing a soft chromium-green. Shaft of antenna and branches of posterior (= outer) side creamy white, anterior branches purple, underside of both shaft and branches ochreous. Palpi and forecoxae washed with purplish tawny ; upperside of forefemur, a lateral stripe on mid- and hind-tibiae, the whole foretibia and tarsus, and the upperside of the mid- and hindtarsi purple.

Wings, above.—Forewing : costal edge creamy, shaded with fuscous

in outer third, cilia of hindmargin, a posterior basal tuft, the longer scales of the fringes and a minute stigma creamy white; parallel with distal margin and about 3 mm. distant from it a faint darker green line; apex acuminate but not produced, distal margin straight below apex, then convex, hindangle rounded, projecting neither backward nor outward.—Hindwing: paler than forewing, whitish green, base and hair of abdominal margin almost white; distal margin as in forewing even, neither dentate nor undulate, anal angle faintly indicated.

*Underside* pale green, costal edge of forewing creamy buff; longest scales of fringes and the abdominal area of the hindwing whitish.

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